Killing of Mongoose inTamil Nadu

2410. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that field Mongoose are killed inTamil Nadu, as its hair are used to make painting brushes; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government and the State Government to put an end to the brutal killing of these Mongooses?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no incidence of mongoose being killed for its hair for making painting brushes in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise. However, considering the important role mongoose has in an ecosystem, recently legal status for protection of mongoose has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Part II of Schedule II of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Environmental Clearance for Ong Dam

2411. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ong Dam Irrigation Project, which envisages construction of dam across river Ong, in Orissa, has been received by Government for environmental site clearance;

(b) whether this project has already been cleared by the 74th TAC, of Ministry of Water Resources on 29th September, 2000, at an estimated cost of Rs. 304.60 crores; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.